

Trust the Seeds

SATB and orchestra



Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

Composer Note: I wrote *Trust the Seeds* while my preschool children were in daycare. I felt vaguely guilty about that at the time, for shouldn't I have been *spending time with my children* rather than *composing music about them*? As I look back on my unease now I see how unnecessary it was, for not only did my sons adore frolicking with their friends three mornings each week, but writing music was what kept me grounded so that I could happily frolic with them the rest of the time.

As a composer I was still floundering about looking for a grand, elusive thing called "voice." I was also trying to figure out how to be a professional composer, and while that was elusive too, there was one thing I did know. If anyone was ever going to take me seriously my music needed to invite adjectives such as "formidable," "visionary," and "epic." There was nothing "epic" about *Trust the Seeds*.

A few years later when I put together my first ever choral music catalog, it was with some hesitation that I included *Trust the Seeds* at all. But what the heck. There was room on page five for one more piece. I figured it might receive a few minor performances here and there. As it turned out, it became my best selling song for several years and I even received a commission to create an orchestral version of it. This little chorale actually *was* part of my "voice" – something its lyrics were trying to tell me all along.

Cover Art: "Six Seeds and Pods" by Emily Hawes

Emily studied art history and studio art at University of Virginia, as well as in private venues. An active member of a local art guild, her other interests include camping, gardening, wildlife and reptile husbandry.



More of Emily's art may be viewed at <http://ehsketchaday2011.blogspot.com>

Trust the Seeds

Trust the seeds, although they lie in darkness,
Stirring beyond your watchful eye.
Though they may not flower as you dreamed they would,
When the planting's over you must trust the seeds.

Some soon bloom to fill your heart with wonder,
Some only after you are gone,
You must give them freedom to grow as they should.
Give them room to spread their roots, and trust the seeds.

In your heart, you know that some may wither,
All you can do is hope and pray.
Some will rise up grander than you dreamed they could.
There is joy in planting if you trust the seeds.

Elizabeth Alexander

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Instrumentation

Flute

Oboe

Harp

SATB Choir

Strings

Trust the Seeds

(♩ = 48-50) Seamlessly

Elizabeth Alexander

The musical score is arranged in systems. The first system includes Flute and Oboe parts. The Flute part begins with a melodic line marked *mp* and a slur. The Oboe part enters with a lower melodic line, also marked *mp*. The second system features the Harp, with a chordal accompaniment marked *mf* and *p*. Below the Harp part, the chord sequence **D C B / E F# G A** is indicated. The third system contains the vocal staves for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B), which are currently empty. The fourth system includes the string ensemble: Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and Contrabass (Cb). The strings play a rhythmic accompaniment with various dynamics including *p* and *mp*.

A

9

Hp

mp

S

Trust the seeds, al - though they lie in dark - ness,

mp

A

Trust the seeds, al - though they lie in dark - ness,

mp

T

Trust the seeds, al - though they lie in dark - ness,

mp

B

Trust the seeds, al - though they lie in dark - ness,

Vln I

p

Vln II

Vla

Vc

13

S

Stir - ring be - yond your watch - ful eye. Though they

A

Stir - ring be - yond your watch - ful eye. Though they

T

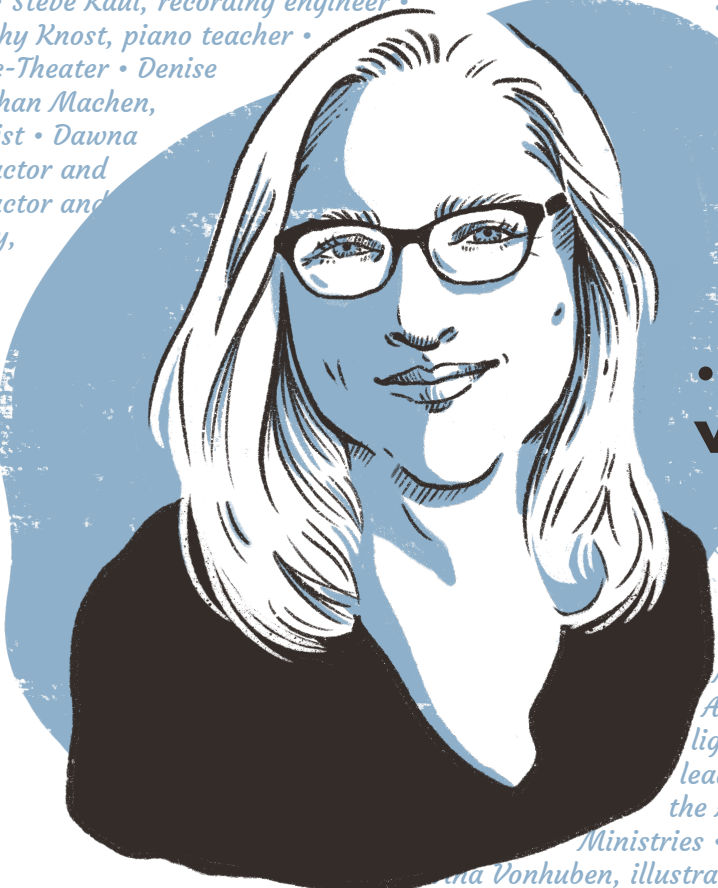
Stir - ring be - yond your watch - ful eye. Though they

B

Stir - ring be - yond your watch - ful eye. Though they

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**A lot of hard work
and creativity went
into bringing this
music to you...**



**...and some of it
was even mine.**

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Elizabeth Alexander
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31 **B**

Ob. *mp*

Hp. *mp* **F#**

S
seeds.

A
seeds.

T
seeds.

B
seeds.

Vln I *p*

Vln II *p*

Vla *p*

Vc *p*

Cb *p*

37

Fl.

Ob.

Hp

(DCB/EFGA)

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Cb

mp

45

Hp *mf* *mp*

Vln I *p* *pp*

Vln II *p* *pp*

Vla *p*

Vc *p*

Cb *p*

B \flat Eb **D \flat C \flat**

51 **C**

Fl. *p*

S *p dolce*

A *p dolce*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla *pp*

Vc *pp*

Cb

Some soon bloom to fill your heart with won - der,

Some soon bloom to fill your heart with won - der,

55

Fl.

Hp

crisp, pure

mp

(D \flat C \flat B \flat / E \flat F G A \flat) C \sharp

S

A

Some on - ly af - ter you are gone. You must

Some on - ly af - ter you are gone. You must

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Cb

59

Fl. *p*

Hp (*mp*)

(D \flat C B \flat / E \flat F G A \flat)

S
give them free - - - dom, free - dom,

A
give them free - - - dom, free - dom,

Vln I

Vln II *gently rocking*

Vla *gently rocking*

Vc *gently rocking*

Cb

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66

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Hp

(Db C Bb / Eb F G Ab)

S *p*
as _____ they should. _____

A *p*
as _____ they should. _____

Vln I flautando

Vln II flautando

Vla flautando

Vc flautando

Cb flautando

D

72

Fl.

Ob.

Hp.

D

pp dark, senza vibrato

S
Give them room to spread their roots, and trust the seeds.

pp dark, senza vibrato

A
Give them room to spread their roots, and trust the seeds.

pp dark, senza vibrato

T
Give them room to spread their roots, and trust the seeds.

pp dark, senza vibrato

B
Give them room to spread their roots, and trust the seeds.

Vln I
arco norm.

gently rocking

Vln II
arco norm.

gently rocking

Vla
arco norm.

gently rocking

Vc
arco norm.

Cb
arco norm.

79

E

Ob.

Hp *mp*

(D C B \flat / E \flat F G A \flat) **G \flat** **E \flat**

Vln I *p*

Vln II *p*

Vla *p*

Vc *p*

Cb *p*



83

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mf*

Hp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Cb

87

Fl.

Ob.

Hp

G#

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Cb

mp

mf

espress.

v

91

Fl.

Ob.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Cb

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

Musical score for measures 96-102. The score is for five instruments: Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and Contrabass (Cb). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The time signature is 2/2. Measure 96 starts with a dynamic marking of *mf* and a *V* (Vibrato) marking. The score features long, sweeping melodic lines with various articulations and dynamic markings.

Musical score for measures 99-105. The score is for five instruments: Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and Contrabass (Cb). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The time signature is 2/2. Measure 99 starts with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The score continues with long, sweeping melodic lines and includes a *ff* dynamic marking in measure 105.

Musical score for measures 103-109. The score is for five instruments: Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc), and Contrabass (Cb). The key signature changes to two sharps (D major/B minor) starting at measure 103. The time signature is 3/4. Measure 103 starts with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The score features long, sweeping melodic lines with various articulations and dynamic markings, including *ff* in measure 109.

107 **F**

Harp

mp

D^b C^b G^b (D^b C^b B^b / E F G^b A^b)

T *mp* In your heart you know that some may with - er,
In your heart you know that some may with - er,

B *mp* In your heart you know that some may with - er,

Vln I *p*

Vln II *p*

Vla *p*

Vc *p*

Cb *p*

116

Fl.

Ob.

Hp

(D C B \flat / E F G A)

E \flat

S

rise up grand - - er, grand - - er,

A

rise up grand - - er, grand - - er,

T

rise up grand - - er, grand - - er,

B

rise up grand - - er, grand - - er,

Vln I

arco

mp

Vln II

arco

mp

Vla

mp

Vc

mp

Cb

mp

119

Fl.

Ob.

Hp

S
grand - - er, grand - er than you

A
grand - - er, grand - - er than you

T
grand - - er, grand - er than you

B
grand - - er, grand - - er than you

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Cb

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136 *rall.* *a tempo*

Fl. *like drops of water*

Hp (D C B \flat / E F G \flat A \flat) B \natural A \natural

S *p*
plant - ing if you trust the seeds.

A *p*
plant - ing if you trust the seeds.

T *p*
plant - ing if you trust, if you trust the seeds.

B *p*
if you trust, the seeds.

Vln I *con sord flautando pp*

Vln II *con sord flautando pp*

Vla *con sord flautando pp*

Vc *con sord flautando pp*

Cb *con sord flautando pp*

143 *espress.* *p*

151

Selected Choral Music by Elizabeth Alexander

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